

# FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

πίστις

אמונה

Faithfulness



A Bible Presentation  
Led by Andrew J. Manuse





# The Fruits of the Spirit

- ◆ In the Fourth Part of our Spiritual Warfare series, we covered the works of the flesh and how they map to lawlessness:
  - ◆ <https://odysee.com/@FirstFruitsMinistries:b/SpiritualWarfarePt4:3>
- ◆ Now we're studying the works of the Spirit and how they map to righteousness. Speaking about His disciples, Yeshua said "you shall know them by their fruit," and Paul writes that "the Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control."
- ◆ Dig-in with us for this multi-part series to learn what these "fruits of the Spirit" actually look like and how to apply the lessons learned to our lives.
  - ◆ The several parts of the series will be available at: <https://odysee.com/@FirstFruitsMinistries:b/Fruits-of-the-Spirit:a>



# The Spirit of Faithfulness

## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

love,  
joy,  
peace,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
gentleness,  
and self-control



Galatians 5:22-23

- ◆ In this Bible Study, we're going to take a really close look at what it means to "walk in the Spirit" of faithfulness.
- ◆ The Greek word used in this verse for "faithfulness" is "pístis" (πίστις).
- ◆ The Hebrew word for "faithfulness" is "emunah" (אֱמוּנָה).



## Greek Words for the English 'Faithfulness'

(In Galatians 5:22, "Pistis" is the Noted Fruit of the Spirit)

- ♦ Strong's Gk. 4102, πίστις (pistis)—noun: faith, faithfulness, belief, trust, with an implication that actions based on that trust may follow; "the faith" often refers to the Christian system of belief and lifestyle; faith, assurance, belief; believe; fidelity.
  - ♦ HELPS Word-studies: 4102 pistis (from 3982/peithō, "persuade, be persuaded") – properly, persuasion (be persuaded, come to trust); faith.
    - ♦ NOTE: The balance of the HELPS entry of "pistis" uses a Calvinist description of "faith" that I strongly disagree with—in fact, I'd call it heretical. It seemingly confuses "grace," which is a free gift from God, with "faith," which is a decision we make through our own free will to trust in God and all of His ways, and to follow after Messiah's example. HELPS Word-studies is therefore not a good reference on this topic.
  - ♦ Thayer's Greek Lexicon has an extremely accurate and thorough definition of "pistis," which means faith and faithfulness:
    - ♦ 1) conviction of the truth of anything; belief. In the New Testament, a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and conjoined with it.
      - ♦ a) when it relates to God, "pistis" is "the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ."
      - ♦ b) In reference to Christ, "pistis" denotes "a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Yeshua is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God." Since faith is a power that seizes upon the soul, one who yields himself to it is said to have obedience rendered to faith, springing from faith (and availing) to (arouse) faith (in those who as yet have it not). To proclaim the glad tidings of faith in Christ. Instruction concerning the necessity of faith. In an ethical sense, persuasion or conviction (which springs from faith in Christ as the sole author of salvation. Concerning things lawful for a disciple of Yeshua.
      - ♦ c) Universally, the religious belief of Christians. In the sense of a mere acknowledgment of divine things and of the claims of Christianity. Objectively, the substance of Christian faith or what is believed by Christians. "The form in which the truth (as the substance of right doctrine) is subjectively appropriated."
      - ♦ d) With the predominant idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same.
    - ♦ 2) Fidelity, faithfulness, i.e., the character of one who can be relied on (as used in our verse Galatians 5:22), of one who keeps his promises.



# Related Greek Words to the English 'Faithfulness'

- ♦ Strong's Gk. 4103, πιστός (pístos)—adjective: faithful, trustworthy, reliable, believing; true; faithfully; sure.

- ♦ Thayer's Greek Lexicon:

- ♦ 1) Trusty, faithful: of person who show themselves faithful in the transactions of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties.
  - ♦ 2) Easily persuaded, believing, confiding, trusting: One who trusts in Gods' promises, is convinced that Yeshua has been raised from the dead; is convinced that Yeshua is the Messiah and the author of salvation. A believer. To do something harmonizing with Christian faith; a faithful work.
- ♦ Strong's Gk. 4104, πιστόω (pistóō)—verb: to be convinced of; assured.
- ♦ Thayer's Greek Lexicon:
- ♦ 1) To make faithful, render trustworthy. To make firm, establish.
  - ♦ 2) Passive: To be firmly persuaded of, to be assured of.

- ♦ Derived from Strong's 3982, πείθω (peíthō)—verb: to convince, persuade, to trust in, have confidence in, be persuaded, trust and obey.

- ♦ Thayer's Greek Lexicon:

- ♦ 1) Active:

- ♦ a) to persuade: to induce one by words to believe, whether absolutely or in a cause or thing.
- ♦ b) to make friends of, win one's favor, gain one's good will, or to seek to win one, strive to please one, to conciliate by persuasion.
- ♦ c) to persuade unto; i.e., move or induce one by persuasion to do something.

- ♦ 2) Passive and middle:

- ♦ a) to be persuaded; to suffer oneself to be persuaded; to be induced to believe; to have faith in a thing; to believe; to be persuaded of a thing concerning a person.

- ♦ b) To listen to, obey, yield to, comply with.

- ♦ 3) Perfect: To trust, have confidence, be confident.



# The Hebrew, Old Testament Word for 'Faithfulness'

- ♦ Strong's Heb. 530, אֱמוּנָה (emunah)—noun: faithfulness, steadiness, trustworthiness, truth, stability, steady, truly, verily.
- ♦ Brown-Driver-Briggs: firmness, steadfastness, fidelity.
  - ♦ 1) literally firmness, steadiness.
  - ♦ 2) Steadfastness
  - ♦ 3) faithfulness, trust.
    - ♦ a) of human conduct: in office, in trust (over), associated with human character
    - ♦ b) of a divine attribute; his faithfulness is shown in his works; in His commands; in affliction; it cannot be forsaken or contradicted; closely associated with the divine mercy, with the divine and with salvation.

- ♦ Derived from Strong's Heb. 539, אָמַן (amein)—verb: To nurse, nurture, care for, be a trustee, be a guardian, to be nurtured, cared for; to be faithful, be trustworthy, be established; to believe, trust, have confidence.
  - ♦ NOTE: The pronunciation and transliteration of (אָמַן) "amein" have been corrected in this study to align with Scriptural uses of this word. Strong's does not have the word correctly transliterated.
  - ♦ Brown-Driver-Briggs: confirm, support.
    - ♦ 1) support, nourish; i.e., foster-father, foster-mother (nurse); supporters of the door, pillars; faithful (as firm, stable), faithful ones, faithfulness.
    - ♦ 2) made firm, sure, lasting.
    - ♦ 3) confirmed, established, sure.
    - ♦ 4) to stand firm.
    - ♦ 5) trust, trustworthy.



# Faithfulness As a Fruit: The Law of First Mention (Exodus 17:12)

- ♦ “Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, ‘Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.’ Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. But Moses’ hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady (אֱמוּנָה—emunah) until the sun set. So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.’ Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner; and he said, ‘The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.’” (Exodus 17:8-16)
- ♦ God is faithful to Israel and helps them to defeat Amalek despite the fact that the people had just denied Him—“the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’” (Exodus 17:3).
- ♦ Moses led the people back to the Lord. His hands were faithfully raised in praise until the end, just as we must be faithful to the end. Our hands represent everything we say and do. Our words and actions must be faithful to God’s will at all times, or we can face setbacks. Our hearts must be aligned with our actions, or we will not stand.



## Further Analysis of Moses's Faithfulness in Exodus 17:8-16, Part 1 of 2

- ◆ Amalek, a descendant of Esau, attacked Israel following Israel's grumbling against God and Moses in the Wilderness of Sin because they could not find water, and they doubted God's provision. We can deduce that God was testing Israel's faithfulness, since He had just brought them over the Sea of Reeds and showed His awesome power. Ultimately, however, Israel was victorious because of the faithful prayers of Moses, Aaron and Hur, and Amalek receives condemnation for cursing Israel.
- ◆ Moses's hands must be raised in praise to God in order for Israel to prevail following the people's anger and dispute against the Lord:
  - ◆ In 1 Timothy 2:8, Paul writes: "I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or dispute."
  - ◆ In Psalm 134:2, we read: "Lift up your hands to the Holy Place and bless Yahweh."
- ◆ When Moses cannot endure in his praise and thanksgiving, the Lord remembers the grumbling of Israel and judges the men of war by the sword.
  - ◆ "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



## Further Analysis of Moses's Faithfulness in Exodus 17:8-16, Part 2 of 2

- ◆ When Moses endures in his praise and thanksgiving, Israel prevails.
  - ◆ The Lord says, “ask, and it will be given to you, seek, and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9)
  - ◆ This aligns with Psalm 91: “A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes and see the retaliation against the wicked. For you have made the Lord, my refuge, the Most High, your dwelling place. ... Because he has loved Me, I will save him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.” (Psalm 91:7-9, 14-15)
- ◆ Aaron and Hur help encourage Moses, giving him strength to remain steadfast (faithful-emunah—אֱמוּנָה) in his praise of the Lord, praising the Lord and praying right by his side:
  - ◆ “Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
  - ◆ “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2)
  - ◆ “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)



# To Remain Faithful Is To Think, Speak and Act In a Way That Trusts God's Works, Believes His Promises, and Guards His Commandments

- ♦ Speaking to God, the Psalmist writes: “You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness and exceeding faithfulness (נֶאֱמָנוּהָ).” (Psalm 119:138)
- ♦ “Whoever believes (pisteuōn) that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith (pistis). Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes (pisteuōn) that Jesus is the Son of God?...” (1 John 5:1-7)
- ♦ “Look at the proud! They trust in themselves and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness (emunah) to God.” (Habakkuk 2:4—New Living Translation)
- ♦ “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes (pisteuonti), for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith (pisteōs) to faith (pistin); as it is written, “The just shall live by faith (pisteōs).” For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” (Romans 1:16-18)
- ♦ “Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness (emunah).” (Psalm 37:3)
- ♦ “Now faith/[faithfulness] (pistis) is the substance [the foundation, the reality] of things hoped for, the evidence [that by which a thing is proven or tested] of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)
- ♦ “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)
- ♦ “Even so faith (pistis), if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.” (James 2:17)



## Faithfulness in the Story of Abraham

- ♦ "...the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' Abram also said, 'Since You have given me no son, one who has been born in my house is my heir.' Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'This man will not be your heir; but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.' And He took him outside and said, 'Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' Then he believed (וַהֲאֵמֵן—amein) in the Lord; and He credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:1-6)
- ♦ While immediately **faithful**, we know by reading the full story how Abraham got some things wrong along the way before God's promise was fulfilled in his life. Not waiting on God, He fathered the child Ishmael when he was 86-years old with his wife's servant Hagar, and only much later when he was 100 did God give Abraham Isaac through Sarah as promised. God was faithful to Abraham:
  - ♦ "Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham named his son who was born to him, the son whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Now Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him." (Genesis 21:1-5)
- ♦ At this point, God would test Abraham's **faithfulness** and ask him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham passes the test:
  - ♦ "Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. And Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.'" (Genesis 22:9-12)



# God Was Faithful to Abraham and His Descendants

- ♦ The same day God promised Abraham His son Isaac, God made another promise to Abraham:
  - ♦ “Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. Then God said to Abram, ‘Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the wrongdoing of the Amorite is not yet complete.” (Genesis 15:12-16)
- ♦ This promise was fulfilled in multiple stages, but here’s some key snapshots:
  - ♦ “Now the Lord said to Moses, ‘One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will assuredly drive you out from here completely. Speak now so that the people hear, that each man is to ask of his neighbor, and each woman of her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold.’ And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.” (Exodus 11:1-3a)
  - ♦ “Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.” (Exodus 12:35-36)
  - ♦ “So Moses reached out with his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ... But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right and on their left. So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they **believed (amein)** in the Lord and in His servant Moses.” (Exodus 14:27-31)
  - ♦ “So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and lived in it. And the Lord gave them rest on every side, in accordance with everything that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; everything came to pass.” (Joshua 21:43-45)



# We Must Be The Children of Abraham, Faithful to God, Because He is Faithful to Us

- ♦ While the whole discourse between Yeshua and the unbelieving Jews in John 8:31-59 is powerful to identify Yeshua as the Messiah, the key verse for the purpose of this study is this, because it defines the fruit of [faithfulness](#):
  - ♦ “They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Yeshua said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham.” (John 8:39)
- ♦ Here are those works of [faithfulness](#) described by two different New Testament writers:
  - ♦ “Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Therefore, recognize that it is those who are of [faith \(pisteōs\)](#) who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by [faith](#), preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed in you.’ So then, those who are of [faith](#) are blessed with Abraham, the [believer](#).” (Galatians 3:6-9)
  - ♦ “By [faith \(Pistei\)](#) Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he left, not knowing where he was going. By [faith](#) he lived as a stranger in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By [faith](#) even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him [faithful](#) who had promised. Therefore even from one man, and one who was as good as dead at that, there were born descendants who were just as the stars of heaven in number, and as the innumerable grains of sand along the seashore. All these died in [faith](#), without receiving the promises, but having seen and welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country which they left, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. By [faith](#) Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and the one who had received the promises was offering up his only son; it was he to whom it was said, ‘Through Isaac your descendants shall be named.’ He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.” (Hebrews 11:8-19)



## Hebrews 11: The 'Hall of Faith/Faithfulness' Part 1 of 2

- ◆ Keep this verse from Hebrews 11:6 in mind as we study the so-called “Hall of Faithfulness” as well as the whole concept of what it means “to be faithful” to God: “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”
- ◆ Besides Abraham, many men and women of faith (pistis) are mentioned in Hebrews 11. Read the chapter for the full context. What follows is from the chapter, a long list of examples—this “great cloud [throng/multitude] of witnesses”—who show that faith is indeed doing; it is action that we take by our own free will because we believe what God has already done and what He still promises to do. Faith is not passive; rather, faith is the thoughts, words and actions that prove something that is unseen, in this case, that these men believe in God’s works and His promises, and as a result they want to guard themselves according to His commandments. I have underlined all of the actions that amount to faithfulness in the following quotations.
- ◆ In Hebrews 11, “By faith/faitfulness (pistei)”:
  - ◆ “Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous ... though he is dead, he still speaks.”
  - ◆ “Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household...”
  - ◆ “Jacob, when he was dying, made mention [prophesied] of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.”



## Hebrews 11: The 'Hall of Faith/Faithfulness' Part 2 of 2

- ♦ Continuing in Hebrews 11, "By faith/faithfulness (pistei)" ...:
  - ♦ "Moses ... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. ..."
  - ♦ "...He left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen."
  - ♦ "...He kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them."
  - ♦ "...they passed through the Sea of Reeds as though they were passing through dry land...."
  - ♦ "...the walls of Jericho ... had been encircled for seven days," because God had commanded it, and for this reason "they [the walls] fell down."
  - ♦ "Rahab the harlot ... had welcomed the spies in peace" and for this reason she "did not perish along with those who were disobedient."
  - ♦ "...Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel and the prophets ... conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouth of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight."



# God is Faithful and Wants His People to be Faithful

- ♦ In the song of Moses of Deuteronomy 32, right before he died, Moses explains to Israel that God will always be “faithful (אֱמוּנָה)” to those faithful to Him:
  - ♦ “Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth! May my teaching drip as the rain, my speech trickle as the dew, as droplets on the fresh grass, and as the showers on the vegetation. For I proclaim the name of the Lord (יהוה); ascribe greatness to our God (אֱלֹהִים)! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God (אֵל) of faithfulness (אֱמוּנָה) and without injustice, righteous and just is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:1-4)
- ♦ Later in the song, Moses explains how God has been faithful:
  - ♦ “For the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the howling wasteland of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young, He spread His wings, He caught them, He carried them on His pinions. The Lord alone guided him, and there was no foreign god with him. He had him ride on the high places of the earth, and he ate the produce of the field; and He had him suck honey from the rock, and oil from the flinty rock, Curds of the herd, and milk of the flock, with fat of lambs and rams, the breed of Bashan, and of goats, with the best of the wheat; and you drank wine of the blood of grapes.” (Deuteronomy 32:9-14)
- ♦ At the end of days, John the Revelator explains how the Saints who stand before God’s altar forever will worship God, singing about His faithfulness:
  - ♦ They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.’” (Revelation 15:3-4)



# The People of God Have Not Always Been Faithful to Him

- ♦ As the Song of Moses continues, Moses explains that when the people act **unfaithfully** toward God, this angers Him. This is both history from the wilderness and prophesy of the time to come for the people of Israel:
  - ♦ “They have acted corruptly against Him, they are not His children, because of their defect; but are a perverse and crooked generation. Is this what you do to the Lord, you foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father who has purchased you? He has made you and established you. ... But Jeshurun [poetic name for Israel] became fat and kicked—you have become fat, thick, and obstinate—then he abandoned God who made him, and rejected the Rock of his salvation. They made Him jealous with strange gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons, who were not God, to gods whom they have not known, new gods who came lately, whom your fathers did not know. You forgot the Rock who fathered you, and forgot the God who gave you birth.” (Deuteronomy 32:5-6, 15-18)
- ♦ On account of the people’s **unfaithfulness**, God brings judgment:
  - ♦ “The Lord saw this, and spurned them because of the provocation by His sons and daughters. Then He said, ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, sons in whom there is **no faithfulness**. They have made Me jealous with what is not God; they have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation, for a fire has flared in My anger, and it burns to the lowest part of Sheol, and devours the earth with its yield, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.” (Deuteronomy 32:19-27)
- ♦ The Lord is merciful. He remains **faithful** to the **unfaithful** for His own glory; to show that His Word is True:
  - ♦ “I will add misfortunes to them; I will use up My arrows on them. They will be wasted by famine, and emaciated by plague and a bitter epidemic; and the teeth of beasts I will send against them, with the venom of crawling things of the dust. Outside the sword will make them childless, and inside, terror—both young man and virgin, the nursing child with the man of gray hair. I would have said, ‘I will wipe them out, I will remove the mention of their name from humanity,’ Had I not feared the provocation by the enemy, that their adversaries would misjudge, that they would say, ‘Our hand is triumphant, and the Lord has not performed all this.’” (Deuteronomy 32:23-27)



Ultimately, God will be **Faithful** to forgive those who turn their hearts to be **Faithful** to Him

- ♦ “For the Lord will vindicate His people, and will have compassion on His servants, when He sees that their strength is gone, and there is none remaining, bond or free. And He will say, ‘Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge? Those who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you, let them be your protection! See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can save anyone from My hand. Indeed, I raise My hand to heaven, and say, as I live forever, if I have sharpened My flashing sword, and My hand has taken hold of justice, I will return vengeance on My adversaries, and I will repay those who hate Me. I will make My arrows drunk with blood, and My sword will devour flesh, with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired leaders of the enemy.’ Rejoice, you nations, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will return vengeance on His adversaries, and will atone for His land and His people.” (Deuteronomy 32:36-43)
- ♦ There is a dichotomy today between those who serve Him and those who rebel against Him: “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the Truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the Truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful (pistos) and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His Word is not in us.” (1 John 1:5-10)



## Moses Warns Israel To Remain Faithful Before His Death, Part 1 of 2

- ◆ “Only be careful for yourself and watch over your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.” (Deuteronomy 4:9)
- ◆ This is analogous to what we read in Deuteronomy 6:4-9: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.””



## Moses Warns Israel Not to Corrupt Themselves With Unfaithfulness, Part 2 of 2

- ♦ He says, we cannot “act corruptly and make any figure, a representation of male or female, a representation of any animal that is on the earth, a representation of any winged bird that flies in the sky, a representation of anything that crawls on the ground, or a representation of any fish that is in the water below the earth. And be careful not to raise your eyes to heaven and look at the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the heavenly lights, and allow yourself to be drawn away and worship them and serve them...” (Deuteronomy 4:16-19a).
- ♦ To do any of these things would be to act with **unfaithfulness**.
- ♦ God is jealous for our **faithfulness**, as Moses explains in the second reading of the second commandment: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Deuteronomy 5:8-10)



# The Lord Remains Faithful Even When We Fail (Moses Continued 1 of 2)

- ◆ Moses also makes it clear that the Lord knows we're going to fall away. We're going to act with **infidelity** to our relationship:
- ◆ He says "when you become the father of children and children's children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, ... and do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to provoke Him to anger..." (Deuteronomy 4:25)
- ◆ "Persistent **unfaithfulness**" leads to judgment every time, and the Lord makes it clear as He continues:
- ◆ We read such things as, "you shall surely perish quickly from the land ... you shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number..." (Deuteronomy 4:26-28)
- ◆ Ezekiel 14:12-23 identifies "famine," "wild beasts," a metaphor for evil governments, "the sword," a metaphor for war, and "pestilence" as the judgments of God that He will send upon any land, whether Israel or a Gentile nation, where the people engage in "persistent **unfaithfulness**."



# The Lord Remains Faithful Even When We Fail (Moses Continued 2 of 2)

- ◆ However, the Lord desires repentance and a return to “faithfulness,” and He always leaves the door open for us to return, because He is faithful:
  - ◆ “...from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice. For the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.” (Deuteronomy 4:29-31)
- ◆ Here is the conclusion of the matter. This is how we remain faithful to our faithful God:
  - ◆ “Therefore know today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other. So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, so that it may go well for you and for your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time.” (Deuteronomy 4:39-40)
  - ◆ Yeshua said in John 14:15, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” In John 16:15, He identifies these commandments as the same ones Moses delivered to Israel: “All things that the Father has are Mine...” He continues from John 14:15 through verse 17, if we keep His commandments, He says He will give us “a Helper,” the “Spirit of Truth.” He will help us in all things in all ways to understand, know and keep the commandments so that we can love God and love one another all the days of our lives. (John 14:26)



# God Will Test Our Faithfulness, Especially After We Fail, Part 1 of 2

- ♦ “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.” (Deuteronomy 8:1-10)



# God Will Test Our Faithfulness, Especially After We Fail, Part 2 of 2

- ♦ “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [the Torah and the Prophets], let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (pisteōs), who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.” (Hebrews 12:1-13)



# The Prophet Hosea Explains God's Faithfulness Despite His People's Unfaithfulness

- ♦ In Hosea 1-2, the Lord lays out a lengthy metaphor, explaining that Israel has acted like a whoring, **unfaithful** wife by worshipping foreign gods and forsaking His commandments, but He explains that He will remain faithful and win her back and redeem her, despite her unfaithfulness.
- ♦ In Hosea 3, the Lord asks the prophet to live out this metaphor to illustrate what Israel is doing to Him, as He explains:
  - ♦ "And the Lord said to me, 'Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.' So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. And I said to her, 'You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.' For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days."
- ♦ In Hosea 4, the Lord uses plain words to explain what He means by **unfaithfulness**. Here's an excerpt:
  - ♦ "Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness (emunah) or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. ... My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore. ... They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your brides commit adultery." (Hosea 4:1-2, 12-13)



## Hosea Condemns **Unfaithfulness** All Throughout His Prophecy

- ◆ Chapters 5-14 continue to plainly state the **unfaithfulness** of the Tribes of Israel against God, and how God will bring judgment on them for their sin, such as in these examples:
  - ◆ “Set the trumpet to your lips! One like a vulture is over the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law.” (Hosea 8:1)
  - ◆ “The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, ‘Cover us,’ and to the hills, ‘Fall on us.’” (Hosea 10:8)
  - ◆ “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Ba'als and burning offerings to idols.” (Hosea 11:1-2)
  - ◆ “And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves metal images, idols skillfully made of their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. It is said of them, ‘Those who offer human sacrifice kiss calves!’ Therefore they shall be like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.” (Hosea 13:2-3)



## Hosea Also Prophesies A Call to Repentance and A Promise of Redemption

- ◆ “Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.” (Hosea 6:1-2)
- ◆ “Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.” (Hosea 10:12)
- ◆ “Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.” (Hosea 11:3-4)
- ◆ “But I am the Lord your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior. It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought;” (Hosea 13:4-5)
- ◆ “Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, ‘Take away all iniquity and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips.’” (Hosea 14:1-2)
- ◆ “I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.” (Hosea 14:4)
- ◆ “Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.” (Hosea 14:9)



# God is the Faithful Bridegroom Who Comes to Redeem His Bride

- ♦ When Yeshua returned home to Nazareth from his ministry for a visit, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read, and He read Isaiah 61, verse one and part of verse 2. We read: “He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...’ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’” (Luke 4:16-20)
- ♦ Isaiah 61:1-2a prophesies and sums up the Messiah’s first coming completely, which is why Yeshua stopped reading where He did. The prophecy continues from there; however, and explains what will happen during the Messiah’s second coming. The following verses tie in very well with Hosea, which explains the judgment that will come on the **unfaithful** as well as the repentance and redemption offered to the **faithful**:
- ♦ Isaiah 61:2b-7 starts off this way: “... And the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But you shall be named the priests of the Lord, they shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs.”
- ♦ Finally, these key verses finish off the prophecy in Isaiah 61:10-11: “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.” (Isaiah 61:10-11)



# The Lord Uses Wedding Imagery to Express His Faithfulness to His Faithful Servants

- ♦ Right before His crucifixion, the Lord used wedding imagery to explain what He was about to do: “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” (John 14:1-4) A bridegroom in Galilee would use similar language with his bride after they had made a covenant of marriage before going to prepare a place for his bride that would be built-on to his father’s house.
- ♦ During the Last Passover Seder, Yeshua offered the third Messianic cup of redemption, saying the following, as described in Matthew 26:27-28: “Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.’” In a Galilean wedding, a bride would accept a cup of wine from her bridegroom to signify her acceptance of the bridegroom’s marriage proposal. By accepting the cup and celebrating annually “in memory of Him,” as He commanded us, we enter into a marriage betrothal with the Lord and accept His promise to return for us. In the meantime, we must get ready for the wedding. When it comes to the fourth Seder cup of the Passover, the “cup of the kingdom,” Yeshua says this: “But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29). The final cup is reserved for the wedding feast itself.
- ♦ The marriage supper of the lamb is prophesied in Revelation 19:6-9, and it explains what we ought to be doing while we wait for the return of our bridegroom: “And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’”
- ♦ Paul makes use of this same wedding imagery, making it clear that the faithful are the bride of Messiah when He comes: “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.” (Ephesians 5:23)



# Faithfulness Means That We Ought to Prepare for the Wedding, Part 1 of 5

- ♦ “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” (Matthew 25:1-13)
- ♦ In order to make sure we have enough oil for our lamps, we first need to understand what the lamps are, and what the oil is, and how we can purchase it, and how we can light our lamps, and then we can prepare ourselves for the wedding feast upon our bridegroom’s arrival.
  - ♦ God’s Commandments are the Lamp:
    - ♦ “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105).
    - ♦ “For the commandment is a lamp and the law a light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life...” (Proverbs 6:23)
  - ♦ Everyone has the Word of God, but do we read it?
    - ♦ “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2)



# Faithfulness Means That We Ought to Prepare for the Wedding, Part 2 of 5

- ♦ Do we know Yeshua. Do we follow the Word of God?
  - ♦ “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)
  - ♦ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)
- ♦ And so we can conclude that the lamp is **faith** in Yeshua and **faithfulness** in God’s commandments. Now, how do we fill that lamp with oil?
  - ♦ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:15-18)
  - ♦ “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)
  - ♦ “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth.” (Psalm 119:142)
  - ♦ **Faithfulness** is the action we take on account of our belief in what God has said and done for us and what He still promises to do. When we keep the commandments on account of our **faith**, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives to help us, and thus the “fruit of the Spirit is produced.” That fruit; namely, **faithfulness**, is then pressed into oil for our lamps.



# Faithfulness Means That We Ought to Prepare for the Wedding, Part 3 of 5

- ♦ Let's examine the fruit metaphor a bit more:
  - ♦ First of all, for the purpose of keeping the Menorah lit continuously in God's Tabernacle, in Exodus 27:20, we read, "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually."
  - ♦ In Jeremiah 11:15-17, we read that the Lord has called Israel, "Green Olive Tree, lovely and of good fruit." However, the verse continues, "With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, and its branches are broken. For the Lord of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced doom against you for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke Me to anger in offering incense to Baal."
  - ♦ In Romans 11:13-24, Paul makes it clear that Gentiles are grafted-in branches from a "wild olive tree" into the "Green Olive Tree" that is Israel, and "branches were broken off [so] that [Gentiles] might be grafted-in. With the "native branches," we "became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree," and "the root supports [us]." We can only remain a part of this olive tree if we "continue in [God's] goodness. Otherwise [we] also will be cut off." In a positive sense, the "natural branches" that were cut off can be grafted back in. Being part of the tree depends on whether we produce fruit.
  - ♦ Within the text of Matthew 7:15-20, the Lord advises us in a similar metaphor: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."



# Faithfulness Means That We Ought to Prepare for the Wedding, Part 4 of 5

- ◆ Now, that fruit needs to be pressed into pure oil:
  - ◆ “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’” (Matthew 16:24)
  - ◆ “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:13)
  - ◆ “We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-10)
  - ◆ “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” (Romans 12:1-3)
  - ◆ The oil of the lamp is purified as we go through the trials and tribulations of this world, but remain faithful to the Lord our God and His commandments by following the example of Yeshua.



# Faithfulness Means That We Ought to Prepare for the Wedding, Part 5 of 5

- ♦ The Last step is to burn oil in our lamps continuously:
  - ♦ Yeshua warns in Matthew 24:12: “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”
  - ♦ He warns again: “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.” (Revelation 2:2-5)
  - ♦ Our first love is God and our love and desire to please Him must be burning in our hearts. To keep our lamp lit with oil continuously, we must be **faithful** to our first love, our betrothed, our Messiah Yeshua, by **faithfully** keeping His commandments. **Faithfulness** is our undying commitment to our bridegroom.
  - ♦ We must have a fiery passion for our betrothed: “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.” (Colossians 3:22-25)
  - ♦ When we are **faithful**, the oil in our lamps burns bright: “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)
  - ♦ This is how we burn the oil in our lamps continuously. Yeshua said to us: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-21)



# About First Fruits Ministries

- ♦ “On behalf of First Fruits Ministries and in humble service to Messiah Yeshua, I am available to help you learn more about today’s lesson as well as for prayer, for encouragement, or for any other pursuit you may have in your relationship with Yeshua.” — Andrew J. Manuse, pastor
- ♦ First Fruits Ministries is a Judeo-Christian Messianic Ministry that meets every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 60 Bailey Ave. in Manchester, N.H. Each week, we hold an in-house service from 10 a.m.-noon, we live-stream Corner Fringe Ministries’ service from noon to 2 p.m., and subsequently celebrate with fellowship from 2-4 p.m. We hold a monthly Bible Study on the last Tuesday of each month (except July) at 7:30 p.m. EST. Visit <https://firstfruits.cc> for more information.
- ♦ Our name, First Fruits Ministries, is based on this Bible Verse: “But now Messiah Yeshua is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah Yeshua all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Messiah Yeshua the firstfruits, afterward those who are Messiah Yeshua’s at His coming.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)
- ♦ First Fruits Ministries is an affiliate of Corner Fringe Ministries in Coon Rapids, MN. Pastor Andrew J. Manuse is guided in Messiah Yeshua with discipleship under the counsel and leadership of Corner Fringe Ministries Pastor Daniel Joseph.
- ♦ Corner Fringe Ministries is based on the Bible Verse: “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’” (Zechariah 8:23)



Andrew J. Manuse

